Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission
Conseil de la radiodiffusion et des télécommunications canadiennes
Canada

News Release

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CRTC RENEWS ASN'S LICENCE

OTTAWA/HULL -- The CRTC today renewed CHUM Limited's broadcasting licence for the satellite-to-cable programming service known as Atlantic Satellite Network (ASN). The licence is renewed for the period extending from September 1, 1995 to August 31, 2000 (Decision CRTC 95-417). Today's decision follows a public hearing held in Halifax in April 1995.

"The Commission is very pleased with the licensee's recent expansion of its original non-news programming, which has greatly increased ASN's reflection of regional community realities. Viewers across the country should have access to programming truly representative of their respective communities. ASN plays a major role in the Atlantic provinces in this regard", CRTC Chairman Keith Spicer said. The five-year term granted for ASN will allow the Commission to examine the next renewal of this licence at the same time as it considers the licence renewal of CIHFTV Halifax, the issues surrounding the solicitation of local advertising in Halifax, and the implications of these issues for both broadcasters.

Highlights of this decision include:

- The Commission, at this time, rejects CHUM's request to solicit local advertising in the Halifax/Dartmouth area. This will ensure that local broadcasters have the means to adequately fulfill their mandate and obligations to the broadcasting system.
- The CRTC expects the licensee to fulfill its commitment to broadcast 8.5 hours per week of original news production, including news updates.
- ASN's spending on Canadian programming should be in accordance with the Commission's prescribed formula linked to the licensee's advertising revenues and network payments.
- ASN must caption all of its self-produced news programming, including live segments, by the end of its new licence term. The licensee is also expected to close caption 70% of its programming by the end of its licence term.

In the Atlantic region, CHUM Limited is the licensee of Halifax radio stations CJCH and CIOO-FM and of the Atlantic Television System (ATV), which consists of CJCH-TV Halifax, CJCB-TV Sydney, CKCW-TV Moncton and CKLT-TV Saint John. ASN was originally licensed in April 1981.

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Copies of today's decision are available through our Internet home page, http://www.crtc.gc.ca , or in the public examination room at any of the following CRTC offices:

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